

than would be the case with separate individual action. Decency in medical journalism is rather a new thing—particularly when applied to the advertising pages—and the establishment of state journals, properly conducted in this particular, may go far toward making it less uncommon. The Trustees of the A. M. A. feel that they must “lay up treasures upon earth,” so they have to advertise all sorts of nostrums. Some of the State Societies, however, seem to have the feeling that it is more becoming to live up to certain principles of right living, called “principles of ethics,” and not to lend their publications to the cheerful work of debauching the medical profession. Our JOURNAL is certainly for the Association of State Journals, and for the right principle, and we wish the new association every possible success.

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No one in this generation pays any particular attention to anonymous letters. Any man who has a statement to make or a complaint to file, and who is afraid to sign his name to it, lays himself open to the inference that his statement or his complaint is not founded on a basis of fact. Neither the Society nor the JOURNAL can afford to pay attention to unsigned letters. This does not mean that the identity of the writer will, in every case, be published; but it means that to secure recognition the responsible author must be known. All this is apropos of an unsigned communication addressed to the Secretary anent professional misconduct of the “school doctor,” an office recently established by the San Francisco Board of Health. If the writer of the letter in question will forward his name and address, the matter of his complaint will be taken up and thoroughly aired; otherwise, with regret, we shall have to pass it by in silence. Incidentally, and in passing, it may be said that the numerous gentlemen who address the Board of Examiners in regard to illegal practitioners, without the formality of attaching their signatures, are, to say the least, inconsiderate. Don’t be a coward. If you know of something going wrong, come out like a man and say so; put it on paper, and sign your name to it. Your confidence will be respected, and so will you; vastly more respected than if you hide behind the anonymous letter.

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An exceedingly important decision has recently been handed down by the Supreme Court of North Carolina. The case at issue was one involving the constitutionality of the dental practice act, and was, in every essential particular, identical with the case, *ex parte* Gerino, just decided by the Supreme Court of this State. A

summary of the decision is published in the *Journal of A. M. A.*, April 9th. The points decided are the power of the Legislature to require an examination; the exercise of police power by the State for the protection of the public, as against the conferring of special privileges; the right to require an applicant to comply with every requirement of the law before taking an examination; and the right of the Legislature to delegate its appointive power to a recognized society or association of professional men who are assumed to be better able to intelligently select the examiners who shall carry out the requirements of the Legislature. Slowly, but surely, the courts of last resort are deciding on the fundamental questions at issue, and the time is evidently not far distant when the status of all proper laws for the control of medical and dental practice will be clearly defined and supported by decisions.

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Work is progressing on the preparation of the 1904 edition of the Register of Physicians.

Blank “record” cards will have been sent to all physicians in the state before the middle of this month, and it is desired to have the card file completed at as early date as possible. This can only be accomplished through the co-operation of the physicians themselves. A moment’s time is all that is required to fill up the card and mail it, and then there need be no reason why names and addresses should not appear correctly in the Register. The publication office force is taking every precaution against errors, and if the recipients of the record cards will do their part in the work of compilation, by sending in data promptly, the Register of 1904 will be as complete as it is possible to make it. It should be understood that the record cards are to serve a double purpose—furnish data for the Register, and be kept for reference in the office of the State Society. While only a portion of the information asked for is to be published in the Register, it is all essential in the making of a complete record file. Once more it is urged upon every physician in the state to send in his record card promptly.

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It is always sad to see the taking off of a strong valuable life in its early vigor. If the untimely end is due, either wholly or in part, to the use of tobacco and alcohol we naturally feel still more sorry to see such an unworthy snipping out of a useful and potentially great life. We note that Mr. Noah Raby, of Eatontown, N. C., recently died, and under circumstances that make his death particularly sad. Mr. Raby, according to his own statements, which seem to have been pretty well confirmed, was but 136 years old; and there can be